

Seismic Safety Commission
Minutes of Meeting
October 21, 2004
Sheraton Universal Hotel
333 universal Terrace Parkway
Universal City, California

Members Participating

Lucy Jones, Chairman
Donald R. Parker, Vice Chair
Andrew Adelman
Bruce Clark
Lawrence T. Klein
Don Manning
Stan Y. Moy
Linden Nishinaga
Daniel Shapiro
Celestine Palmer

Members Absent

Senator Richard Alarcon/Chris Modrzejewski
Mark Church
Jimmie R. Yee

Staff Present

Richard McCarthy
Robert Anderson
Karen Cogan
Henry Sepulveda
Kaname Suzuki
Fred Turner

I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Chairman Lucy Jones called the meeting of the Seismic Safety Commission to order at 10:05 a.m. Executive Assistant Karen Cogan called the roll and confirmed that a quorum was present.

II. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

Chairman Jones thanked Mr. David Geary for providing the tour of Universal Studios and said she was impressed with Universal's emergency preparedness efforts. She recommended recognizing Universal Studios as a role model or example of best practices. Chairman Jones asked the staff to prepare a framed certificate.

Chairman Jones thanked Commissioner Don Parker for speaking for the Commission at the recent California Performance Review (CPR) hearing in Davis. She said Commissioner Parker had to wait patiently through a long day of testimony, but he was finally able to make important comments supporting the Seismic Safety Commission and other groups.

Commissioner Parker added that he attended a BART meeting the previous week and learned that the retrofit bond measure now has the support of the Contra Costa Taxpayers Association, so it may have a better chance of passing this time.

Chairman Jones reported that Commissioner Stan Moy had represented the Commission at a press conference in San Francisco on October 15 commemorating the 15-year anniversary of the Loma Prieta earthquake. Commissioner Moy said Assemblyman Yee announced passage of AB

3032 and AB 3033, changing the unreinforced masonry (URM) placarding law, and the USGS released three more shake mps of the Bay Area.

III. APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 9, 2004 COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Chairman Jones welcomed comments on the September 9 minutes. Commissioner Lawrence Klein indicated he had already submitted a few comments to Mr. McCarthy.

ACTION: Commissioner Linden Nishinaga made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Klein, that:

The Commission approve the minutes of the September 9 meeting as proposed.

* Motion carried, 9 - 0 (Commissioner Celestine Palmer absent during voting).

IV. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Budget Update

Commissioner Klein noted the budget summary sheets reflect increases in Commission reserves, some of which came from the reduction in workers' compensation insurance premiums. He observed that the state's calculation differ from the Commissions, so those discrepancies will be ironed out soon.

ACTION: No action required.

California Performance Review (CPR) Update

Mr. McCarthy reported that he and Commissioner Parker met with Assemblywoman Pat Wiggins' staff for advice regarding how best to advocate for continuing the Seismic Safety Commission as an independent body. They recommended communicating directly with the Governor, and garnering support from organizations like the Chamber of Commerce, League of California Cities, and Department of Insurance.

Update on FEMA Appeal

Mr. McCarthy said the Commission staff is awaiting scheduling of a meeting with FEMA representatives in Pasadena to discuss the appeal.

Office Relocation

Mr. McCarthy noted the Commission's current office lease expires next May, and the landlord is reluctant to make the \$200,000 improvements necessary to comply with ADA. He said the amount budgeted last year for possible office relocation and was held in the Architectural Revolving Fund was swept by Department of Finance, so the staff will be working with the Office of Real Estate Development Services (OREDSD) to determine if the current lease can be

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extended. He promised to keep the Commission informed as the situation develops.

ACTION: No Action Required.

Request for Draft Report

Mr. McCarthy informed the Commission that members of the news media had requested access to draft copies of the Commission's school safety report, and the Commission has a policy of not releasing documents until the Commission officially approves them. He noted releasing a draft can be misleading, so such requests are denied. Mr. McCarthy added that the ad hoc committee expects to have the report completed sometime in November.

Commissioner Andrew Adelman said the City of Los Angeles obtained legal advice that a draft document is not part of the public record until it is signed and transmitted. He expressed his opinion the same approach would be good for the Seismic Safety Commission.

ACTION: No action required.

V. BRIEFING ON THE SEPTEMBER 28, 2004 PARKFIELD EARTHQUAKE

Chairman Jones showed a series of slides regarding the magnitude 6 earthquake on the San Andreas Fault near Parkfield. She said this earthquake was long awaited, and there was extensive instrumentation in place to measure many aspects of the event.

Chairman Jones stated the earthquake did not behave completely as expected, so there are still important lessons to be learned. In particular, the movement occurred from south to north, there were no foreshocks, and there were no surface ruptures reported. Chairman Jones said the California Integrated Seismic Network performed well, and there were shake maps and aftershock probability calculations provided quickly. She added that some of the instruments were installed in the 1980's, so they lacked telemetry capabilities.

Chairman Jones commented that with all the instruments in place at Parkfield, scientists were still unable to predict the event. She expressed her opinion that prediction will not be possible until more is understood about earthquake physics. Chairman Jones noted the Parkfield earthquake has ground motion implications, and the attenuation relationships, near field effects, and fault fling need further study.

Mr. Bob de Groot, Southern California Earthquake Center, reported that he was in the process of filming the SAFOD drill rig in Parkfield when the earthquake occurred, and had an opportunity to interview many knowledgeable people immediately after the earthquake.

Mr. de Groot presented commissioners with a folder containing information on the new "Written in Stone" video, plans for its distribution, and a sample lesson plan, as well as a copy of "Putting Down Roots," a publication for residents of southern California. He reported that the California Earthquake Authority provided \$10,000 for distribution of the video kits to grades 6 through 12, community colleges, and community organizations. Mr. de Groot noted the curriculum is

aligned with the state's current science content standards.

Mr. McCarthy complimented SCEC for its work. He noted SCEC and the Seismic Safety Commission have been able to work together in successful partnerships for many years.

ACTION: No action required.

VI. LEGISLATION FOR 2005

Director of Legislation Henry Sepulveda reported that AB 2533, providing penalties for failure to post placards on URM's, was signed into law. He noted the dam safety bill had been vetoed.

Commissioner Nishinaga commented that he was pleased the Honorable Governor Schwarzenegger vetoed AB 2197 and would like to commend and thank him for doing so. He said after hearing testimony from the Division of Safety of Dams and the Federal Regulatory Commission it appeared that both inspections were important and that the consequences of dam failure are dire. He observed that earthquake induced dam failures can kill many more people than even similarly caused failures of buildings and bridges, but the dangers of this are not always apparent.

Chairman Jones asked the staff to prepare a summary of recent changes in URM laws for the Commission's review at the next meeting.

Mr. Sepulveda noted the Commission discussed ideas for legislation in 2005 at its workshop session the previous day, and he drew attention to the summary on green paper. He stated the Commission should consider 2005 legislative ideas at the November meeting, promote them during the legislative visits in early January, and have them ready to present to authors in January. Mr. Sepulveda pointed out that the Commission's legislative visits last year were quite effective in terms of meeting possible bill sponsors. He said the Commission was introduced to Assemblyman Yee, who was pleased to sponsor seismic safety legislation.

Given the Commission's limited resources, Chairman Jones emphasized the need to focus on a few key legislative ideas for 2005.

Chairman Jones asked commissioners to contact Mr. Sepulveda to schedule visits with legislators. Mr. Sepulveda suggested forming groups of three commissioners to call on specific legislators.

Mr. Sepulveda informed the Commission that a new legislative intern, Rebecca Romo, would be joining the staff.

ACTION: No action required.

VII. AD HOC COMMITTEE ON SEISMIC SAFETY IN CALIFORNIA SCHOOLS - UPDATE ON REPORT

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Chairman Jones welcomed comments from commissioners on the school safety report, particularly on the recommendations. She said the committee is seeking input from all stakeholders.

Commissioner Parker recommended clearly stamping the document “draft” on every page and adding a date.

Mr. Sepulveda reported that the staff was making arrangements for meetings with the Superintendent’s Office as well as the charter and private schools associations.

Commissioner Klein encouraged the committee to meet with the Sacramento PTA Group as well.

ACTION: Chairman Jones asked the staff to follow up with the Sacramento group.

VIII. OTHER COMMITTEE REPORTS

Ad Hoc Committee on the Revision of the Homeowner’s Guide to Earthquake Safety - Status Report

Commissioner Dan Shapiro reported that the committee held its second meeting on October 15 at San Jose State University, and the contract was present to discuss organization and content, presentation, and technical quality issues. He said the committee also reviewed some of the comments and responses to the initial submittal, and then went through the draft page by page. Commissioner Shapiro added that the group made good progress, and the next meeting, scheduled for November 4, will focus on polishing the draft.

Commissioner Shapiro encouraged individual commissioners to help edit the revised HOG.

ACTION: No action required.

IX. EDUCATION & OUTREACH PROGRAM FOR 2005

Ms. Cogan directed the Commission’s attention to a chart summarizing the Commission’s educational and outreach efforts. She pointed out that there are many activities for such a small staff, and she thanked commissioners for their willingness to help out.

Ms. Cogan noted the Commission has made visits in the past to private companies, such as Nestle, and more of that kind of contact might be helpful. She said the Commission’s booth for trade shows and fairs has been quite successful, and a new contest encouraging people to “predict the size and win a prize” has been popular.

Mr. McCarthy added that the Seismic Safety Commission is involved in a number of joint projects, such as production of educational videos, Operation Hope, and 911 for Kids projects. He suggested that the Commission consider initiating a grant application with the Office of Emergency Services (OES) for more outreach activities.

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Ms. Cogan encouraged commissioners to participate in the legislative visits. She noted the staff created a comprehensive packet of information on the Commission as part of the CPR process, and those materials might be helpful in outreach efforts. She requested that commissioners continue to let the staff know about local events in which Commission participation might be worthwhile. Ms. Cogan also welcomed more commissioner volunteers for outreach projects.

Mr. Ed Bortugno, OES, said OES used to have about \$250,000 per year for publicizing earthquake month in April, but those funds have been cut. He said OES has many useful materials and original documents that could be reproduced and distributed to new audiences.

ACTION: Chairman Jones suggested that the staff meet with OES representatives to discuss opportunities to work together without much money.

Mr. Bortugno stated that a new round of pre-disaster mitigation grants is available from FEMA, and education and outreach activities are eligible.

ACTION: Chairman Jones recommended that the Commission and OES work together to apply for grants.

ACTION: Commissioner Bruce Clark commented that in discussions with legislators, the Commission should emphasize its liaison role between the community and the government.

Commissioner Parker recommended that commissioners make themselves available as guest speakers for organizations such as chambers of commerce, trade associations, and business groups. He suggested developing a common message featuring a business recovery product, and then digitizing the presentation.

ACTION: Chairman Jones said she liked the idea of commissioners speaking to various groups.

Commissioner Shapiro commented that the Commission's Web site, a valuable outreach tool, was not included in the outreach chart.

ACTION: Commissioner Shapiro asked for more information on Web site usage.

Mr. Anderson said the Commission's Web site is widely used by people who want quick information about earthquakes. He noted the site has a links to USGS and to a live volcano camera at Mount St. Helens, and the Commission posts documents and publications.

Commissioner Clark asked about the Web site's hit rate. Mr. Anderson responded that a counter was used at first, but not lately.

ACTION: Chairman Jones suggested asking San Diego State to provide that information for the next meeting.

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ACTION: Commissioner Shapiro recommended that the staff include annual and occasional commemorative events in which the Commission plays a role.

Mr. Anderson said the Commission and USGS are working together to create a 54-minute video about the 1906 earthquake for eventual broadcast on ABC. Mr. McCarthy added that the staff has been working with Mary Lou Zoback, of USGS, and a San Francisco television station that wants to take the lead and asked the staff to provide more information at the next meeting.

ACTION: Chairman Jones encouraged the Commission to take an active role in helping to plan the Quake '06 events.

X. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no members of the public who wished to address the Commission.

Chairman Jones welcomed and introduced former commissioner Keith Wheeler.

XI. MISCELLANEOUS & GOOD OF THE MEETING

Commissioner Clark recommended thanking EERI for the letter supporting the Commission during the CPR process.

ACTION: Chairman Jones asked the staff to draft an appropriate letter.

Commissioner Adelman requested that the calendar of upcoming meetings be reviewed. The Commission confirmed the next meeting would be held on November 18 in San Mateo; committee meetings include the October 28 meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee on School Safety, November 4 meeting of the HOG Revision Committee in San Jose; November 17 meeting of the Strong Motion Instrumentation Advisory Committee in Sacramento; and January 13, 2005, Commission meeting in Sacramento.

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XI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting of the Seismic Safety Commission was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Sue Celli
Office Manager

Approved by:

Richard McCarthy
Executive Director